

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10. (canceled)

Sub C17
Claim 11 (new). A system for selectably controlling viewing and recording of television programs, the system comprising:

at least one viewer profile establishing a set of limits for blocking images outside said limits from view;

at least one limit selected from the group comprising: program ratings, spending, channel, view time limits, time of day limits, image content ratings;

at least one override list including at least one override instruction applicable to said at least one viewer profile for overriding at least one of said limits.

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Claim 12. (new) The system of claim 11 further comprising a conflict resolver for resolving conflicts between said override instructions.

Claim 13. (new) The system of claim 12 wherein said conflict resolver is switchable between a most restrictive mode of operation and a least restrictive mode of operation.

Claim 14. (new) The system of claim 11 including means to display to a viewer a blocking status of at least one image.

Claim 15. (new) The system of claim 1 including at least one apparatus selected from the group comprising: television receiver, cable box, video cassette recorder (VCR) tuner.

Claim 16 (new) A system for selectably controlling viewing and recording of television programs, the system comprising:

at least one viewer profile establishing a set of limits for blocking images outside said limits from view of a corresponding viewer, said limits selected from the list including: program ratings, spending, channel, view time limits, time of day limits, image content ratings;

at least one override list including override instructions applicable to said at least one viewer profile for modifying at least one of said limits;

a conflict resolver for resolving conflicts between said override instructions.

Claim 17. (new) The system of claim 16 wherein said conflict resolver is switchable between a least restrictive mode of operation and a most restrictive mode of operation, wherein the least restrictive of conflicting override instructions is applied to said viewer profile when said conflict resolver is in said first mode of operation and the most restrictive of conflicting override instructions is applied to said viewer profile when said conflict resolver is in said second mode of operation.

Claim 18. (new) The system of claim 16 wherein said images blocked from view in accordance with said profile are selected from the group comprising: programs, channels, program rating, scene ratings, spending limits, time limits and time period.

Claim 19. (new) The system of claim 16 wherein said images unblocked in accordance with said override list are selected from the group comprising: programs, channels, program rating, scene ratings, spending limits, time limits and time period.

Claim 20. (new) A system comprising:

a video signal processing apparatus for producing an output signal suitable for coupling to a display device to produce images for viewing or recording;

a blocking system coupled to said video signal processing apparatus which blocks said images in accordance with a profile set by a supervisor, said blocking system including:

at least one override list applicable to said profile such that images blocked in accordance with said profile are unblocked in accordance with said override list.

Claim 21. (new) The system of claim 20 further comprising a conflict resolver to resolve conflicts between two or more of said override lists.

Claim 22. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein said conflict resolver includes at least first and second conflict resolution modes.

Claim 23. (new) The system of claim 22 wherein said first conflict resolution mode is a least restrictive mode and said second conflict resolution mode is a most restrictive conflict resolution mode.

Claim 24. (new) A method for selectably controlling viewing and recording of television programs, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing at least one viewer profile for blocking images from a corresponding viewer based on limits selected from the group comprising: program ratings, spending, channel, view time limits, time of day limits, image content ratings;

creating at least one override list including override instructions applicable to said at least one viewer profile for modifying selected ones of said limits;

resolving conflicts between conflicting override instructions.

Claim 25. (new) A method for controlling viewing of video images comprising the steps of:

coupling video processing circuitry to a display device so as to provide video images for display to at least one viewer;

providing parental control circuitry for blocking at least a portion of said video images from being displayed to a viewer in accordance with a corresponding viewer profile;

creating at least one override list comprising override instructions applicable to said video processing circuitry so as to unblock selected blocked video images;

resolving conflicts between said override instructions.

Claim 26. (new) The method of claim 25 wherein the step of resolving conflicts includes the steps of:

determining the least restrictive of conflicting override instructions;

applying said least restrictive override instruction to said viewer profile so as to unblock at least a portion of said video images.